

A New Species of *Machaerilaemus* (Mallophaga:  
Menoponidae) from the Red-Plumed  
Bird of Paradise<sup>1</sup>

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Several recent collections of lice from a New Guinea bird of paradise contained a distinctive new species of *Machaerilaemus*, which we are here describing.

***Machaerilaemus raggiana***, n. sp.

Type host. *Paradisaea apoda raggiana* Sclater.

Female. As in Fig. 1. Head with pointed sclerotized ventral process at each lateroanterior corner; gula (Fig. 2) open anteriorly, each side with pair of short bifurcate pointed lateroposterior projections and 4-6 setae; without evidence of Y-shaped dorsal suture. Pronotum marginally with 1-2 short setae at each corner, then 1 long, 1 short, and 4 long setae medially; prosternal plate (Fig. 2) with 7 setae in addition to minute pair anterior to plate. Mesosternal plate (Fig. 2) with 6-8 setae, limited to posterior portion of plate. Metanotum with 11-14 marginal setae; metasternal plate (Fig. 2) large, with 17-22 setae. Marginal abdominal tergal setae, including very long postspiracular and shorter adjacent setae: I, 15-17; II-VI, 17-25; VII, 16-19; VIII, 13-16; IX, 19-22. No evidence of abdominal sternite I. Each lateroposterior corner of sternites II-IV with 4-8 short spiniform setae, V, 1-5, and VI, 0-4. Sternites with following number of setae, exclusive of spiniform setae: II-IV, 30-38; V-VI, 30-44; VII, 23-31; and composite VIII-IX, 29-34. Sternites VII-IX fused. Anal fringe ventrally and dorsally with 30-37 setae of various lengths. Dimensions (in mm): preocular width, 0.44-0.45; temple width, 0.53-0.55; head length, 0.25-0.28; prothorax width, 0.39-0.41; metathorax width, 0.47-0.54; total length, 1.36-1.52.

<sup>1</sup> Paper No. 5724, Scientific Journal Series, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Male. Head and thorax essentially as for female. Most abdominal tergites with fewer marginal setae: I, 12-14; II-IV, 16-20; V, 15-16; VI, 13-14; VII, 12-13; VIII, 9-11. Slightly fewer lateroposterior spiniform setae on abdominal sternites: II-IV, 3-7; V, 2-3; VI, 0-3. Much smaller number of other sternal setae: II, 14-19; III-IV, 15-21; V-VI, 12-17; VII, 9-11; composite VIII-IX, 12-16. Terminalia as in Fig. 4. Genitalia as in Fig. 3. Smaller than female, with dimensions (in mm): preocular width, 0.38-0.39; temple width, 0.45-0.47; head length, 0.23-0.26; prothorax width, 0.32-0.33; metathorax width, 0.36-0.39; total length, 1.09-1.15; genitalia length, 0.34-0.37.

*Machacrilaemus raggianae*, in possessing the ventral sclerotized processes at the lateroanterior head margin, differs markedly from all other known species in the genus. However, all other features, including the abdominal chaetotaxy and male genitalia, are essentially in agreement with those cited by Emerson (1947) and Clay (1947) as typical of *Machacrilaemus* and we do not believe that the presence of these processes merits, at least for the present, more than an expansion of the *Machacrilaemus* concept. Aside from this, the shape and chaetotaxy of the gular and thoracic sternal plates differs to varying degrees from the other species in this rather uncommonly collected genus from the Passeriformes.

Material Examined. *Holotype* female (at Bishop Museum), 4 female and 6 male *paratypes*, Mt. Missim, NEW GUINEA, 25 Sept. 1962 (H. C. 20609); 1 female paratype, Bulolo, New Guinea, 3 Mar. 1962, H. Clissold (H. C. 40); 1 female paratype, Wandum Is., New Guinea, H. Clissold (20511).

#### LITERATURE CITED

- CLAY, T. 1947. Proc. Zool. Soc. London 117: 457-477.  
EMERSON, K. C. 1947. Canad. Ent. 79: 209-216.



FIGS. 1-4. *Machacrilaemus raggianae*, n. sp. 1. Dorsal-ventral view of female. 2. Gular and thoracic sternal plates of female. 3. Male genitalia. 4. Dorsal-ventral view of male terminalia.